

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAPPOR 00033 310329Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSY-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W

-----312041Z 076491 /46

R 310223Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL SAPPORO

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 436

AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMCONSUL OSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAPPORO 033

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: ENTRY OF NEW LIBERAL CLUB CANDIDATE CONFUSES UPPER HOUSE
ELECTION PROSPECTS IN HOKKAIDO

1. SUMMARY: NEW LIBERAL CLUB HAS ENDORSED HOKKAIDO LOCAL
CONSTITUENCY CANDIDATE FOR COMING UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. MOVE HAS
STIMULATED RENEWED
ACTIVITY ON PART OF LOCAL NEW LIBERAL CLUB SUPPORTERS AND
CREATED CONFUSION IN POLITICAL PARTIES REGARDING ELECTION
PROSPECTS. IT ALSO PROVIDES SOME EVIDENCE OF NEW LIBERAL CLUB
STRENGTH IN OUTLYING AREAS AND UNDERSCORES FACT THAT GROUP'S
ELECTORAL EFFORTS ARE CREATING ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR ALREADY
BELEAGUERED LDP. END SUMMARY

2. ON MARCH 19, YOHEI KONO AND PROFESSOR YOSHINORI BANDO HELD
SAPPORO PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THAT BANDO WOULD BE NEW
LIBERAL CLUB CANDIDATE (HOKKAIDO LOCAL CONSTITUENCY) IN COMING
UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. FACULTY MEMBER AT HOKKAIDO TEACHERS COLLEGE
IN HAKODATE, 49 YEAR OLD BANDO HAS NO POLITICAL EXPERIENCE BUT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAPPOR 00033 310329Z

HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY WELL-KNOWN BECAUSE OF FREQUENT LOCAL
TELEVISION APPEARANCES. PURVEYOR OF POP PSYCHOLOGY (MOTHER AND
CHILD RELATIONS, ETC.), HE IS ESPECIALLY POPULAR WITH WOMEN'S
GROUPS WHICH VIEW HIS COMMON PLACE OBSERVATIONS AS PROFOUND AND
FIND HIS HAKODATE DIALECT HUMOR AMUSING. IN SHORT, ANOTHER
"TALENT" CANDIDATE.

3. BANDO CANDIDACY HAS PRODUCED RENEWED ACTIVITY ON PART OF HOKKAIDO NEW LIBERAL CLUB. THAT BODY, FORMALLY INAUGURATED LAST OCTOBER AFTER ROUND OF PRELIMINARY MEETINGS, IS NOT YET OFFICIALLY AFFILIATED WITH KONO'S GROUP IN TOKYO. BUILT AROUND SMALL NUCLEUS OF YOUNGER CITY ASSEMBLYMEN, BUSINESSMEN, JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS, AND SOME LDP DEFECTORS, HOKKAIDO CLUB ESTABLISHED CHAPTERS IN SEVERAL CITIES AND DECLARED GOAL OF BECOMING PREFECTURAL BRANCH OF NEW LIBERAL CLUB ONCE THAT GROUP BECAME POLITICAL PARTY. IT ALSO BACKED TWO OF ITS OWN CANDIDATES IN DECEMBER GENERAL ELECTION. NEITHER, HOWEVER, WAS ENDORSED BY KONO, AND BOTH LOST BY LARGE MARGINS. HOKKAIDO CLUB IS NOW MOVING FORWARD WITH PREPARATIONS TO SUPPORT PROFESSOR BANDO'S CAMPAIGN AND THAT OF NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY CANDIDATE TAKAO SATO. IT IS ALSO PREPARING WITH KONO'S BLESSING, TO TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO NEW LIBERAL CLUB, HOKKAIDO FEDERATION.

4. BANDO CANDIDACY HAS ALSO CREATED CONSTERNATION IN LOCAL LDP CAMP AND TREPIDATION ON PART OF JSP (WHICH IS ALSO TRYING TO SORT OUT IMPLICATIONS OF EDA CANDIDACY). IT HAS, AT SAME TIME, GIVEN SOME ENCOURAGEMENT TO KOMEITO AND JCP. UNTIL WEEK AGO, GENERAL BELIEF WAS THAT LDP WOULD ELECT ITS TWO CANDIDATES AND JSP ITS TWO CANDIDATES TO FOUR LOCAL CONSTITUENCY SEATS IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. SINGLE KOMEITO AND JCP CONTENDERS WERE CONSIDERED UNABLE TO WIN.

5. NOW, WITH VOTES SPLIT SEVEN WAYS, OUTCOME IS MORE IN DOUBT. LDP FEARS BANDO COULD DRAW SUFFICIENT CONSERVATIVE AND "FLOATING" BALLOTS TO BRING ABOUT DEFEAT OF ONE OR BOTH OF ITS MEN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAPPOR 00033 310329Z

UNEASILY RECALLS 1974 RUN BY MAVERICK LDP COMPETITOR WHO CAUSED DIVISION OF CONSERVATIVES' VOTES IN SUCH WAY THAT THEY ALL LOST. TO LESSER DEGREE JSP FEARS THAT SHIFT TO BANDO OCCASIONED BY HIS APPEAL TO TEACHERS AND WOMEN, COMBINED WITH SLIPPAGE IN VOTES FROM EDA SUPPORTERS, COULD ALSO PLACE ITS CANDIDATES IN HAZARD. CONVERSELY, WITH "WIN LINE" LOWERED BY SEVEN MAN FIELD, KOMEITO AND JCP EACH FEEL THEIR VOTING BLOCKS MIGHT NOW BE LARGE ENOUGH TO PLACE MAN AMONG TOP FOUR FINISHERS. NO ONE IS YET SAYING THAT BANDO HIMSELF CAN WIN, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SPECULATION ABOUT THAT TOO, BUT HIS CANDIDACY HAS COMPLETELY CONFUSED WHAT UNTIL FEW DAYS AGO WAS REASONABLY CLEAR PICTURE OF LIKELY OUTCOME IN HOKKAIDO LOCAL CONSTITUENCY.

6. COMMENT: OUTCOME OF HOKKAIDO LOCAL CONSTITUENCY RACE, OF COURSE, INFLUENCES OVERALL HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION RESULT IN ONLY SMALL WAY. IN LIGHT OF NARROW CONSERVATIVE-OPPOSITION SPLIT IN UPPER HOUSE AND CONSEQUENT CHALLENGE TO LDP MAJORITY, HOWEVER, IT GAINS IN SIGNIFICANCE, ESPECIALLY SINCE LDP HAS HOPED TO GAIN TWO SEATS HERE THAT IT MISSED IN 1974. BEYOND

THAT, RECENT HOKKAIDO DEVELOPMENTS PROVIDE SOME EVIDENCE THAT
NEW LIBERAL CLUB IS STILL GAINING STRENGTH IN OUTLYING AREAS OF
JAPAN, DESPITE SCATTERED PRESS CRITICISMS THAT ITS ADHERENTS
TEND TO BE "OPPORTUNISTS" AND ITS SUPPORT "FADDISH." FINALLY,
ALTHOUGH UNAWARE OF SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES IN OTHER PREFECTURES,
WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT, WIN OR LOSE, NEW LIBERAL CLUB CANDIDATES
WILL DO SUBSTANTIAL HARM TO LDP AND COULD BE PROXIMATE CAUSE
SHOULD LDP BE DEFEATED IN JULY ELECTION.
FARRAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SAPPOR00033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770111-0381
Format: TEL
From: SAPPORO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977032/aaaaabnf.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c1cd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2989866
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENTRY OF NEW LIBERAL CLUB CANDIDATE CONFUSES UPPER HOUSE ELECTION PROSPECTS IN HOKKAIDO
TAGS: PINT, JA, (BANDO, YOSHINORI)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c1cd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009